Amendments to the Claims

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method of ablating auto-antigen-specific T cells in an auto-immune disease patient comprising the steps of:

removing antigen presenting cells (APCs) from an auto-immune disease patient;

transferring into the APCs a polynucleotide which encodes all or a portion of an auto-antigen to which the patient's antigen-specific T cells respond and a polynucleotide encoding Fas ligand;

reintroducing the APCs into the patient, whereby auto-antigen-specific T cells are activated and ablated~~; and~~

~~administering a product which is detrimental to activated T cell proliferation in the patient~~.

42. (Previously Added) The method of claim 41 wherein the polynucleotide which encodes all or a portion of an auto-antigen further encodes a signal sequence and a transmembrane/cytoplasmic tail, said signal sequence and transmembrane/cytoplasmic tail being functionally located with respect to the auto-antigen or portion thereof to facilitate the auto-antigen's endosomal processing.

43-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 41 wherein the APC cells ~~which express FAS ligand and~~ also express a truncated form of FADD ~~are the same cells which express auto-antigen~~.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41 wherein the ~~polynucleotides is~~ polynucleotide encoding the all or a portion of an auto-antigen and the polynucleotide are a viral genome.

49. (Previously Added) The method of claim 48 wherein the viral genome encodes an attenuated virus.

50. (Previously Added) The method of claim 48 wherein the viral genome is a Vaccinia virus genome.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48 wherein said polynucleotide encoding the all or a portion of an auto-antigen and said polynucleotide encoding Fas ligand are the same polynucleotide ~~further encodes a product which is detrimental to activated T cell proliferation~~.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~52~~ 51 wherein the polynucleotide encoding the all or a portion of an auto-antigen and Fas ligand further encodes a truncated form of FADD which is sufficient to protect a cell also expressing Fas form apoptosis.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) ~~The antigen~~ Antigen presenting cells ~~of claim 54~~ of an autoimmune disease patient which are transduced or transfected with a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising all or a portion of an auto-antigen to which the patient's antigen-specific T cells

respond, said all or a portion of an auto-antigen being functionally located with respect to a signal peptide and a transmembrane/cytoplasmic tail, whereby said all or a portion of auto-antigen is processed by endosomes, wherein said antigen presenting cells ~~which~~ are further transduced or transfected with a polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein which is detrimental to activated T cell survival.

56. (Previously Added) The antigen presenting cells of claim 55 wherein the protein which is detrimental to activated T cell survival is Fas ligand.

57. (Previously Added) The antigen presenting cells of claim 56 which have been transduced or transfected with a polynucleotide sequence encoding a truncated form of FADD which is sufficient to protect a cell also expressing Fas from apoptosis.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) The virus of claim ~~58~~ 63 which is a Vaccinia virus.

60-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A virus ~~of claim 62~~ which infects human antigen presenting cells and which comprises

a first polynucleotide encoding all or a portion of an auto-antigen to which an auto-immune disease patient's antigen-specific T cells respond, said all or a portion of an auto-antigen being functionally located with respect to a signal peptide and a transmembrane/cytoplasmic tail resulting in processing of said all or a portion of an auto-antigen by endosomes in the cell;

a second polynucleotide encoding Fas ligand; and

a third polynucleotide encoding ~~further comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes~~ a truncated form of FADD which is sufficient to protect ~~a~~ the cell also expressing Fas from apoptosis.

64. (Currently Amended) The virus of claim ~~58~~ 63 which is attenuated.

65. (Previously Added) The method of claim 41 wherein the auto-antigen is an extracellular domain of α-submit of acetylcholine receptor and the auto-immune disease is *myasthenia gravis*.

66. (Currently Amended) The antigen presenting cells of claim ~~54~~ 55 wherein the auto-antigen is an extracellular domain of α-subunit of acetylcholine receptor and the auto-immune disease is *myasthenia gravis*.

67. (Currently Amended) The virus of claim ~~58~~ 63 wherein the auto-antigen is an extracellular domain of α-subunit of acetylcholine receptor and the auto-immune disease is *myasthenia gravis*.